



Royal Family visits University of Aruba and meet with students from different faculties Page 7



Richard Jacobs from footballer to international cameraman to multimedia lecturer in Aruba Page 11



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The Ostrich Farm

Page 8

Abortion foes: 2024 GOP hopefuls must back federal limits

By SARA BURNETT and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Emboldened anti-abortion activists are looking to the 2024 presidential election as an opportunity to solidify their influence over the Republican Party. Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, the most influential group in the anti-abortion movement, is telling each potential GOP presidential hopeful that to win its backing — or avoid being a target of its opposition — they must support national restrictions on the procedure. Exceptions in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother are acceptable, the activists say, but leaving the question for states to decide is not. "It is a level of protection that goes to every single state. That's the baseline of what we're looking to do," said Frank Cannon, Susan B. Anthony's chief political strategist. "Anything less than that will not be acceptable and will not be somebody that SBA can support. So, it's that simple." That directive is creating an early litmus test for Republicans considering entering the first presidential election since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, the landmark decision that enshrined federal protections for abortion for roughly 50 years. While the hard-line stance could please anti-abortion activists who hold sway in GOP primaries, it could create problems for the party's eventual nominee in the general election.

Continued on Page 2



People march and hold anti-abortion signs during the "March for Life" event on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023 in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press



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Abortion foes: 2024 GOP hopefuls must back federal limits



Abortion-rights protesters project messages to a building during an event sponsored by Susan B. Anthony Pro Life America at the National Building Museum, Sept. 13, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

Voters protected abortion rights via ballot measures in six states in 2022, including Kansas, a state former President Donald Trump twice won by double-digit margins. AP VoteCast, a survey of the midterm electorate, showed the Supreme Court's decision was broadly unpopular. About 6 in 10 said they were angry or dissatisfied by it, and roughly the same percentage said they favor a law guaranteeing access to legal abortion nationwide. Supporters of abortion rights say the issue was a "game changer" that helped Democrats last year and that will motivate voters even more in 2024, after two years of seeing the effects of restrictions. "We're in a nation where 18 states have no access to abortion, and that number is not going down. It's going to go up as additional court cases get decided," said Jenny Lawson, vice president of organizing and engagement campaigns at Planned Parenthood Action Fund. She predict-

ed people will see headlines "over and over again" about pregnant children forced to travel out of state for abortions or people unable to get proper miscarriage care because doctors are afraid of liability. Pressure from the anti-abortion movement has put Trump, who announced his third run for the presidency last year, in perhaps the most complicated position. He is arguably more responsible for the overturning of Roe than anyone else, having appointed three anti-abortion Supreme Court justices who backed last year's ruling. But he has also made clear that he believes pushing any further will hurt Republicans, and he accused anti-abortion leaders of failing to do enough to help GOP candidates in the midterms. "I just didn't see them fighting during this last election, fighting for victory," Trump said in an interview with David Brody, a longtime commentator for the Christian Broadcasting Network. Trump, who described himself as "very pro-choice" before entering politics,

stressed that objecting to exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother makes it "much harder to win elections." He has criticized evangelical leaders who have been slow to endorse his latest run, blasting decisions by pastors like Robert Jeffress to wait to assess the rest of the field as "a sign of disloyalty." Cannon called the notion that opposing abortion hurt the GOP last year "absolutely absurd," pointing to candidates like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis — a top potential GOP presidential candidate — who easily won reelection. DeSantis signed into law last year a ban on abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy. The Republican candidates who got "clobbered," Cannon said, were those who tried to avoid the topic. "What you have to do is argue for protections that the American people see as reasonable versus the extremism of no exceptions, even late-term abortion," Cannon said. "And if you do that, it's a winning combination." SBA Pro-Life America, which

raised over \$60 million for 2020 campaigns along with its affiliated super PAC, is talking with each potential candidate, Cannon said. While records are being discussed, what matters in 2024 is what policies the candidates prioritize when they announce their bids. SBA's specific request is to support "at a minimum" a "heartbeat bill" or "pain-capable" bill, he said. The heartbeat bill would make abortion illegal after cardiac activity is detected, which occurs at roughly six weeks of pregnancy — before some women know they're pregnant. Legislation that references the fetus feeling pain, such as a measure introduced last year by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., would ban the procedure at around 15 weeks. Graham's bill didn't advance in the Democratic-controlled chamber, and even some fellow Republicans distanced themselves from it ahead of the midterms. Trump's stance has provided an opening on the right for potential rivals like former Vice President Mike

Pence and former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, both of whom are evangelical Christians with long-held anti-abortion stances. Pence has spent months visiting so-called crisis pregnancy centers that counsel women against abortions. And he has embarked on a tour of megachurches, including Jeffress' First Baptist Church in Dallas, and spoken before major anti-abortion groups. His advocacy group, Advancing American Freedom, has pushed for Congress to pass legislation including a national abortion ban beginning around six weeks of pregnancy and a bill that would establish legal personhood at conception. Marc Short, Pence's former chief of staff and longtime adviser, said that when it comes to declared and potential 2024 candidates, "I see him as the most comfortable explaining his pro-life convictions and the basis for them." For Pence, he said, the issue is about much more than politics. "Mike does it because this is core to the reason that he ran for office and won for the first time. It's always been for him a top issue and it's a priority," he said. Former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who was U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under Trump, is another potential candidate who signed abortion prohibitions into law in her state. The 2016 law bans abortion at 20 weeks of pregnancy and includes an exception if the mother's life is in jeopardy but not for cases of rape or incest. After the Supreme Court's decision, Haley said states, and not "unelected justices," should control abortion policy. That position puts her at odds with SBA and other anti-abortion groups. Others see abortion as a potential vulnerability for DeSantis. A spokesperson for South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who is also exploring a potential run, recently unloaded on DeSantis, questioning where he stands on the issue. □

Republicans set to oust Rep. Omar from Foreign Affairs panel

By LISA MASCARO and KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly empowered House Republicans are preparing to oust Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar, a Somali-born Muslim lawmaker, from the House Foreign Affairs Committee over her past comments critical of Israel and as payback after Democrats booted far-right GOP lawmakers from committees for their incendiary, violent remarks.

A procedural vote Wednesday showed unified Republican support for moving against Omar, who has apologized for comments that she has said she came to understand were viewed as antisemitic. It was approved on party lines, with all Democrats opposed. A final vote was expected Thursday. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy has been eager to flex Republican power to remove the Minnesota Democrat after he blocked Rep. Adam Schiff and Rep. Eric Swalwell, both California Democrats, from rejoining the House Intelligence Committee once the GOP took control



Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., speaks during a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Jan. 25, 2023, in Washington.

of the chamber in January. Unlike most committees, appointments to the Intelligence Committee are the prerogative of the speaker. "This is about vengeance. This is about spite. This is about politics," said Rep. James McGovern of Massachusetts, the top Democrat on the House Rules Committee, as Republicans called a hurried meeting

late Tuesday to consider the move against Omar. McGovern argued that Democrats had removed Reps. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., and Paul Gosar, R-Ariz., from committees for remarks that were far more extreme and violent against fellow lawmakers than those for which Omar had apologized. Republicans said they were

waiting for Democrats to formally nominate Omar to the committee, which she served on during the last Congress. Once the committee roster is approved by the House, then Republicans would move to strip her of the seat. Democrats have little recourse at this point and are planning to formally submit their lineup for a vote. "We

Associated Press

are united that she should be seated on the committee, said Rep. Gregory Meeks of New York, the ranking Democrat on the committee.

The resolution proposed by Rep. Max Miller, R-Ohio, a former official in the Trump administration, says "Omar's comments have brought dishonor to the House of Representatives." Texas Rep. Michael McCaul, the committee chairman, argued against her inclusion on the committee in a recent closed-door meeting with fellow Republicans. "It's just that her worldview of Israel is so diametrically opposed to the committee's," McCaul said. "I don't mind having differences of opinion, but this goes beyond that." Having her on the committee, he said, "creates dysfunction." Omar said the issues Republicans have cited in opposing her are a pretext to justify their actions. In reality, "it is about revenge. It's about appeasing the former president," Omar said a recent news conference at the Capitol, referring to Donald Trump. □

20 attorneys general warn Walgreens, CVS over abortion pills

By JIM SALTER
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Attorneys general in 20 conservative-led states warned CVS and Walgreens on Wednesday that they could face legal consequences if they sell abortion pills by mail in those states.

A letter from Republican Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey to the nation's largest pharmacy-dispensing companies was co-signed by 19 other attorneys general, warning that sale of abortion pills would violate federal law and abortion laws in many states. Missouri is among states that implemented strict abortion prohibitions last summer after the Supreme Court ruling overturning Roe v. Wade. Bailey didn't specify what

legal action he would take if the pharmacies begin selling abortion pills to Missourians by mail.

"I will enforce the laws as written," Bailey said in a statement in response to questions from The Associated Press. "That includes laws protecting the health of women and their unborn children.

The FDA rule is in direct violation of federal law, and the unelected bureaucrats at the FDA have no authority to change Missouri law, either. The people's elected representatives have spoken on the issue of abortion in our state, and we will fight to uphold that in court."

Nineteen states have imposed restrictions on abortion pills, but there's a court battle over whether they

have the power to do so in defiance of U.S. Food and Drug Administration policy. A physician and a company that makes the pill mifepristone filed separate lawsuits last month seeking to strike down bans in North Carolina and West Virginia. For more than 20 years, the FDA limited dispensing of the drug to a subset of specialty offices and clinics because of safety concerns. But since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency eased restrictions, eliminating the in-person requirement for the pill and allowing brick-and-mortar pharmacies to dispense it. At least one lawsuit filed by abortion opponents argues that the FDA has overstepped its authority in approving the abortion drugs. A spokesman for Wal-

greens said the company is not currently dispensing mifepristone, although they are working to become eligible through an FDA-mandated certification process, requiring pharmacies to meet specific standards in shipping, tracking and

confidentially storing drug prescribing records.

"We fully understand that we may not be able to dispense Mifepristone in all locations if we are certified under the program," a statement from spokesman Fraser Engerman read. □



Boxes of the drug mifepristone sit on a shelf at the West Alabama Women's Center in Tuscaloosa, Ala., on March 16, 2022.

Associated Press

Connecticut may exonerate accused witches centuries later

By **SUSAN HAIGH**
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Decades before the infamous Salem witch trials in Massachusetts, Alse Young was killed at the gallows in Connecticut, becoming the first person on record to be executed in the American colonies for witchcraft. The Windsor town clerk registered the death on May 26, 1647, in a diary entry that read: "Alse Young was hanged." Young was the first of nine women and two men executed by the colony of Connecticut for witchcraft over 15 years, a period during which more than 40 people faced trial for having ties to Satan. Now, more than 375 years later, amateur historians, researchers and descendants of the accused witches and their accusers hope Connecticut lawmakers will finally offer posthumous exonerations. While such requests aren't new, they have become louder as many genealogy buffs discover they have distant relatives involved in the lesser-known Connecticut witch trials.



In this Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023 photo, Beth Caruso, author and co-founder of the CT Witch Trial Exoneration Project, which was created to clear the names of the accused, stands on the Palisado Green in Windsor, Conn., where in 1651, an accident during a local militiamen training exercise led to the accusation of witchcraft and hanging of Lydia Gilbert.

"They're talking about how this has followed their families from generation to generation and that they would love for someone just to say, 'Hey, this was wrong,'" said Connecticut state Rep. Jane Garibay, who proposed an exoneration resolution after receiving letters from eighth- and

ninth-generation relatives of accused witches. "And to me, that's an easy thing to do if it gives people peace." Other states and countries have attempted to atone for a history of persecuting people as witches. Last year, Scotland's prime minister issued a formal apol-

ogy to the estimated 4,000 Scots, mostly women, who were accused of witchcraft up until 1736. Of the 4,000, about 2,500 were killed. A Scottish member of parliament last year called for posthumously pardoning them. In 2022, Massachusetts lawmakers formally exon-

erated Elizabeth Johnson Jr., who was convicted of witchcraft in 1693 and sentenced to death at the height of the Salem Witch Trials. Johnson is believed to be the last accused Salem witch to have her conviction set aside by legislators. In 2006, former Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine gave an informal pardon to Grace Sherwood, a widowed midwife who was blamed by neighbors for ruining crops, killing livestock and creating storms and subsequently accused of being a witch. With her hands bound, Sherwood was thrown into a river to see if she floated, which was purported to indicate guilt. She managed to set herself free and spent seven years in prison. Connecticut's witch trials were held in the mid-to-late 1600s. In each of the New England colonies, witchcraft was considered a capital offense. According to the earliest laws in the colony of Connecticut, "any man or women (to) bee a Witch, that is, hath or consulteth with a familiar spirit, they shall bee put to death." □

California seeks new gun restrictions following shootings

By **ADAM BEAM**
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom wants to limit where people can carry concealed guns after multiple mass shootings left dozens dead across the state in January, calling for more restrictions in a state that already has some of the nation's toughest gun laws. He endorsed legislation Wednesday that would ban people from carrying concealed guns into churches, public libraries, zoos, amusement parks, playgrounds, banks and all other privately owned businesses that are open to the public. The rule wouldn't apply if the business owner puts up a sign that says

concealed guns are allowed. Democratic state Sen. Anthony Portantino, the bill's author, called that exception "a legal nuance that I

think helps it with constitutional muster." "This is not window dressing. This is to put a strong bill on the governor's desk to withstand a legal chal-

lenge that is sure to come," Portantino said. It would also ban anyone younger than 21 from having a permit to carry their gun concealed and would require all permit holders to have more training, including on how to safely store and transport guns. California and half a dozen other states previously had laws that required people to give a reason if they wanted to carry a concealed gun in public like citing a direct threat to their public safety. But a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last year struck down those laws, making it easier for people in those states to get a permit to carry a concealed weapon. California Democrats tried to pass new rules last year

and they would have succeeded, had it not been for a strategic blunder requiring a two-thirds vote of the Legislature so the bill could take effect immediately. Democrats could not round up enough support, and the bill died. "That's not going to happen this year," Newsom said. "I will be signing this legislation." Newsom and legislative Democrats vowed to double down on passing a new law this year. Their cause came with renewed urgency, after mass shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay left 18 people dead and 10 others wounded. In total, the state had six mass shootings in January and at least 29 people were killed. □



California Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, at the I.D.E.S. Portuguese Hall in Half Moon Bay, Calif., with victims' families, local leaders and community members that were impacted by the devastating shootings the day before.

Associated Press

4 key suspects in Haiti presidential slaying in U.S. custody

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Four key suspects in the killing of Haitian President Jovenel Moïse were transferred to the United States for prosecution as the case stagnates in Haiti amid death threats that have spooked local judges, U.S. officials announced Tuesday.

The suspects now in custody of the U.S. government include James Solages, 37, and Joseph Vincent, 57, two Haitian-Americans who were among the first arrested after Moïse was shot 12 times at his private home near the capital of Port-au-Prince on July, 7 2021.

Also charged is Christian Emmanuel Sanon, an elderly pastor, doctor and failed businessman that authorities have identified as a key player. His associates have suggested he was duped by the real and still unidentified masterminds behind the assassination that has plunged Haiti deep into political chaos and unleashed a level of gang violence not seen in decades.

The fourth suspect was identified as Colombian citizen Germán Rivera García, 44, who is among nearly two dozen former Colombian soldiers charged in the case.

Rivera, along with Solages and Vincent, face charges including conspiring to commit murder or kidnapping outside the U.S. and providing material support and resources resulting in death, the U.S. Justice Department said.

Sanon is charged with conspiring to smuggle goods from the U.S. and providing unlawful export information. Court documents state that he allegedly shipped 20 ballistic vests to Haiti, but that the items shipped were described as "medical X-ray vests and school supplies."

It was not immediately known if the four suspects had attorneys who could comment on the development. The men are scheduled to appear in federal



Suspects in the assassination of Haiti's President Jovenel Moïse, among them Haitian-American citizens James Solages, left, and Joseph Vincent, second left, are shown to the media at the General Direction of the police in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, July 8, 2021.

Associated Press

court Wednesday in Miami. A total of seven suspects in the case are now in U.S. custody. Dozens of others still languish in Haiti's main penitentiary, which is severely overcrowded and often lacks food and water for inmates.

The case has reached a virtual standstill in Haiti, with local officials last year nominating a fifth judge to investigate the killing after four others were dismissed or resigned for personal reasons.

One judge told The Associated Press that his family asked him not to take the case because they feared for his life. Another judge stepped down after one of his assistants died under murky circumstances.

Court documents state that exactly two months before Moïse was killed, Vincent texted Solages a video of a cat "reacting alertly" to the sound of gunfire and that Solages laughed, prompting Vincent to respond: "That's the way Jovenel will be pretty much, but (sooner) if you guys really up to it!"

The document states that Solages responded that "(this) cat will never come back," and "trust me brother, we definitely working our final decision."

Then in June, some 20 former Colombian soldiers were recruited to suppos-

edly help arrest the president and protect Sanon, who envisioned himself as Haiti's new leader. Rivera was in charge of that group, the documents state.

The plan was to detain Moïse and whisk him to an unidentified location by plane, but that plot fell through when the suspects couldn't find a plane or sufficient weapons, authorities said.

A day before the killing, Solages falsely told other suspects that it was a CIA operation and that the mission was to kill the president, according to the documents. Shortly before the killing, authorities said, Solages shouted that it was allegedly a DEA operation to ensure compliance from the president's security detail. About a year after the killing, U.S. authorities say they interviewed Solages, Vincent and Rivera while they were in Haitian custody and that they agreed to talk.

The other suspects already in U.S. custody are Rodolphe Jaar, a former U.S. government informant and a Haitian businessman who was extradited from the Dominican Republic, where he was detained in January 2022.

That same month, U.S. authorities arrested Mario Antonio Palacios Palacios, a

former Colombian soldier who was deported by Jamaica after fleeing there from Haiti. While en route to Colombia, he was detained by U.S. officials in Panama during a layover. Also in January 2022, authorities arrested former Haitian Sen. John Joël Joseph, who also had fled to Jamaica.

Alfredo Izaguirre, a Miami-based lawyer for Palacios, said Tuesday's arrival of the four other suspects will postpone the trial because they all have to be tried at the same time. He said Palacios had been prepared for the trial to begin in early March, but now it could be postponed for up to four months.

Haiti police say other high-profile suspects remain at large, including a former Supreme Court judge who authorities say was favored to seize power from Moïse instead of Sanon as originally planned. Another fugitive is Joseph Badio, alleged leader of the plot who previously worked for Haiti's Ministry of Justice and the government's anti-corruption unit until he was fired, police say.

Emmanuel Jeanty, an attorney for the president's widow, Martine Moïse, who was injured in the attack and flown to the U.S. for care, did not return a message for comment. □

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Hong Kong bans CBD, forcing businesses to shut or revamp

By KANIS LEUNG

Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong banned CBD as a “dangerous drug” and imposed harsh penalties for its possession on Wednesday, forcing fledgling businesses to shut down or revamp. Supporters say CBD, or cannabidiol, derived from the cannabis plant, can help relieve stress and inflammation without getting its users high, unlike its more famous cousin THC, the psychoactive ingredient of marijuana which has long been illegal in Hong Kong. CBD was once legal in the city, and cafes and shops selling CBD-infused products were popular among young people.

But all that has changed with the prohibition, which took effect Wednesday but had been announced by the government last year. CBD-related businesses have closed down while others have struggled to remodel their businesses. Consumers dumped what they saw as a cure for their ailments into special collection boxes set up around the city.

The new rule reflects a zero-tolerance policy toward



In this image made from a video, products containing CBD are displayed at a press conference by Hong Kong Customs in Hong Kong, Friday, Jan. 27, 2023.

dangerous drugs in Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous southern Chinese business hub, as well as in mainland China, where CBD was banned in 2022.

The city maintains several categories of “dangerous drugs,” which include “hard drugs” such as heroin and cocaine.

In explaining the policy change, the Hong Kong government cited the dif-

ficulty of isolating pure CBD from cannabis, the possibility of contamination with THC during the production process and the relative ease by which CBD can be converted to THC.

Customs authorities vowed last week to do more to educate residents to help them understand that CBD is prohibited in Hong Kong even though it is legal elsewhere. Starting Wednes-

day, possession of CBD can result in up to seven years in jail and a 1 million Hong Kong dollar (\$128,000) fine. Those convicted of importing, exporting or producing the substance can face up to life in prison and a 5 million Hong Kong dollar (\$638,000) fine.

Some users said the ban shows the international financial hub is going backward.

“It’s just looking less like an international city,” said Jennifer Lo, the owner of CBD Bakery, who started selling CBD-infused cheesecakes, cookies and drinks in 2021. Her business largely dried up even before the ban took effect, she said.

“Rumors of the ban affected how I do business,” she said. “Some platforms just took me offline without telling me. And then it was not as easy to get space at markets.”

To comply with the ban, Lo dumped all her remaining stock, including dozens of cookies, and said she would have to rebrand her business. Some other vendors, including the city’s first CBD cafe that opened in 2020, shut down.

Karena Tsoi, who used CBD skincare products for two years to treat her eczema, said she will have to find an alternative treatment.

“It’s troublesome,” she said. “The government doesn’t have to regulate like this.”

Most Asian nations have strict drug laws with harsh penalties with the exception of Thailand, which made marijuana legal to cultivate and possess last year. □

Associated Press

U.S. opens embassy in Solomon Islands to counter China

By NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — The United States opened an embassy in the Solomon Islands on Thursday in its latest move to counter China’s push into the Pacific.

The embassy is starting small, with a chargé d’affaires, a couple of State Department staff and a handful of local employees. The U.S. previously operated an embassy in the Solomon Islands for five years before closing it in 1993 as part of a global reduction in diplomatic posts after the end of the Cold War.

But China’s bold moves in the region have the U.S. seeking to increase its engagement in a number of ways, such as by donating

COVID-19 vaccines, bringing back Peace Corps volunteers to several island nations, and investing in forestry and tourism projects.

The opening of the embassy in the Solomon Islands

comes as Fiji’s new leader, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, appears to be reassessing some aspects of his nation’s engagement with China. Rabuka told The Fiji Times last week he planned to end a police training

and exchange agreement with China.

The U.S. State Department notified lawmakers early last year that China’s growing influence in the region made reopening the Solomon Islands embassy a priority. Since then, the Solomons has signed a security pact with China, raising fears of a military buildup in the region, and the U.S. has countered by sending several high-level delegations. The Solomon Islands switched allegiance from the self-ruled island of Taiwan to Beijing in 2019, threatening the close ties with the U.S. that date back to World War II.

“We are seeing this bond weaken as the People’s Republic of China aggressively seeks to engage Solomon Islands’ political and

business elites, utilizing a familiar pattern of extravagant promises, prospective costly infrastructure loans, and potentially dangerous debt levels,” the department said in a December notice to Congress that was obtained by The Associated Press.

A senior State Department official who insisted on anonymity to brief the media said the U.S. had been encouraged by the Solomon Islands’ commitment to continue working with traditional security partners such as Australia and the U.S., but remained concerned about the secrecy surrounding the security agreement with China.

He said any type of militarization in the Pacific by China would be a great concern. □



Ships are docked offshore in Honiara, the capital of the Solomon Islands, Nov. 24, 2018.

Associated Press

Royal Family visits University of Aruba and meet with students from different faculties

(Oranjestad)—During the two-day Royal visit, His Majesty the King Willem-Alexander, Her Majesty the Queen Maxima and Her Royal Highness Princess Amalia visited the University of Aruba, where they were presented with the faculty of Law, participated in a quiz on different topics in the Kingdom and had the opportunity to discuss with students from different faculties of the university.

Bon Dia Aruba talked with a few of the students that had the opportunity to speak with the Royal Family, as well as the Governor of Aruba and Secretary of State, Alexandra van Huffelen. They shared a bit of their discussions and about how their overall experience were.

Lianne Candelaria, a student from the faculty of Law at the university had a conversation with King Willem-Alexander. She shared that they talked about the principal of concordance, where it states that The Netherlands and the other islands in the kingdom must make sure that the law is equal for all.

She explained that there

is indeed a difference between the laws on the different islands, because of religious reasons for example. However, according to the statute, the countries must try to keep the laws equal for all.

Candelaria further shared how she enjoyed her experiences with the Royals. She indicated that during the conversation with the king, the king showed support not only to her point about the laws in the island countries of the Dutch Caribbean—which he said should be adapted to those in the Netherlands, but also to the fact that these islands should work together and create new laws that they could all benefit from.

"I'm very happy to hear that from the king, because sometimes we feel that we often fade into the background, so it's nice to hear that he is interested in working with us and that he supports us," Candelaria added.

Keanu Maduro, student from the Social Work & Development faculty, had the opportunity to speak with the queen and princess. He shared with Bon Dia Aruba

that he is surprised that the Royals had questions about voluntary work and the social field in Aruba, where he was able to share his experience as a student at the university.

"For me, it was something very new, because I've never had an opportunity like this. It was really cool to

have that support from the queen and princess for the social field on Aruba and how they felt about it. They provided great feedback for us," Maduro expressed. He remarked that he explained a little about voluntary work and how it was something difficult to keep maintaining volunteers and remain active. He added that they talked about the social aspects of the field to give a small description about what this looks like compared to The Netherlands.

"They were really enjoying the conversation and they liked the information that we provided. I even took note of things, so it was overall a beautiful experience," he indicated.

Another student that spoke to the king was Lux Grauzinis, student from the SIS-STEM program. She shared with the newspaper that she and her friends, who are also in the same program, spoke to the king and the Governor of Aruba. They talked about what SISSTEM entailed, what they

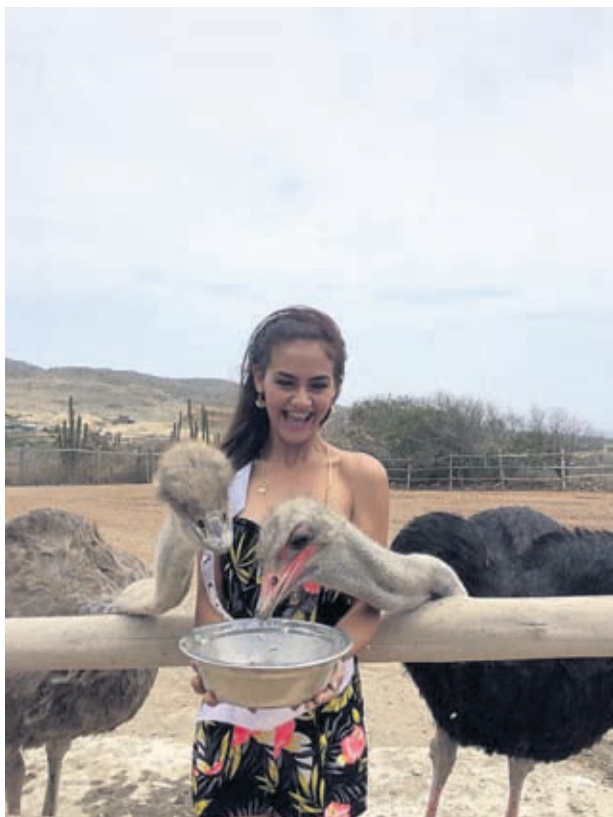
were doing and what the program can mean for the future of Aruba in terms of sustainability. She also shared how some students are involved in some projects and that they are receiving data that the island does not yet have, in order to obtain necessary information for a better future.

"It was an honor to be invited to speak with the Royals and the Governor, and to be able to represent my school and the program in a beautiful way. It was great to get their attention on something that would normally not receive much attraction," Grauzinis said about her experience.

Lastly, she added that the king and the governor were very receptive and the king even commented that one of his kids is considering coming to the University of Aruba, because she is interested in marine science: "it's an interest, and he was enthusiastic to hear about those aspects of the program as well." □



The Ostrich Farm



Matividiri – One of the most entertaining vacation activities is a visit to the Ostrich Farm, a popular stopover on most island jeep tours.

Locals and visitors enjoy the guided ostrich tour at the farm and features a well-stocked locally crafted and produced Art Boutique. The highlight of the visit is always the fun interaction with the resident ostriches and emus, including a trip to the incubators and the bird kindergarten, housing baby ostriches, baby emus, chicken and ducks, and even a land turtle!

It was a National Geographic moment when

on cue Mr. Ostrich flapped his wings excitedly and poked around the ground with his bill, triggering Mrs. Ostrich who ran around in circles, flapped her wings and also poked around, before collapsing on the ground in a heap of feathers, allowing him to mount her, shaking, winding and spiraling his head in all direction!

Mr. Ostrich concluded his unexpected performance with a loud honking, his eyes rolling, then got up in a huff to nonchalantly strut



away, leaving his wife and the scrutiny of our cameras.

It was a surprise reality TV moment, and not usually included in the regular program. Feeding the Ostriches is however always on the program, and they are eternally hungry, and fun!

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Costa Linda Beach Resort Aruba



EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ms. Kimberley Richardson had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say “Masha Danki” for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years “Distinguished Visitor”,

20+ years “Goodwill Ambassador” and 36+ years “Emerald Ambassador”.

The honorees are: Mr. John and Mrs. Mary C. Rociola from Illinois, United States, who have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors. This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation

to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The couple loves coming to the island for it's year-round sunny weather, the friendliest people, the sincerity of Aruba's people, the cleanliness of the island and the fact that it's the best place in the world to vacation.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the Ambassador certification to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and their home-away-from-home.□

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Task Force installed for improving air travel in the Dutch Caribbean Shaping and implementing the shared vision of the DCCA

ORANJESTAD – On November 7, 2022, the historic milestone of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Dutch Caribbean islands, the Netherlands, the six airports of the Dutch Caribbean and the Dutch Association of Airports was celebrated.

This MOU formalizes a commitment of this partnership to explore and establish affordable, efficient, and sustainable air connectivity between Curacao, Aruba, St. Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba and, more specifically, to explore and stimulate the use of emission-free powered flights to operate the aforementioned air connectivity.

DCCA Task Force

As agreed in the MOU, all CEO's of the DCCA (Dutch Cooperation of Caribbean Airports) recently determined the constellation of the Task Force. This Task Force will be tasked with developing a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for improving the interisland connectivity.

The Task Force will include aviation experts and professionals with at its core Mrs. Marieke Smit (Royal Schiphol Group) as Program Manager, Mrs. Suzy Kartokromo (St. Maarten Airport) as assistant Program Manager, Mrs. JoAnne Meaux-Arends (Aruba Airport) and Mrs. Peggy



Croes (Curacao Airport), both for business development, Mrs. Christine Driesen (Bonaire Airport) for airport infrastructure/charging stations and standards, and Mr. Vishal Oedjaghir (St Eustatius Airport/Saba Airport) as PSO expert. As such all islands of the Dutch Kingdom are duly represented and will be working on reaching the end goal of the MOU signed back in November of 2022.

Task Force deliverables

Before the end of 2023, this Task Force will deliver a Joint Strategic Plan with, besides a clear indication how to reach the end goal of a more affordable, efficient and sustainable interisland connectivity network with a concrete timeline and milestones, the following deliverables:

1. The feasibility and establishment of an interisland innovation center for sustainable aviation, to stimulate and facilitate the use of zero emission powered flights for air connectivity between these islands;
2. Possibilities, means and measures to achieve a smooth, seamless and efficient flow of passengers on interisland flights at the airports of the CAS and BES islands, including easing the entry/exit requirements by use of biometrics and digital identification tech-

nological advancements or otherwise;

3. Recommendations on necessary changes of laws, regulations and policy pertaining to the end goal;
4. Recommendations on how to make interisland travel more affordable for the public.

The progress of the Task Force will be overseen by a Progress Committee, which will consist of the Kingdom Countries Aviation Steering Group ('Regiegroep Luchtvaart voor de Koninkrijkslanden') and the CEO's of the DCCA airports. The Dutch Civil Airports Association ('Nederlandse Vereniging van Luchthavens') will also appoint a representative in the Progress Committee.

Joost Meijs, CEO of Aruba Airport Authority N.V. and chairman of the DCCA: "It is great to see that collectively we have been able to define a strong Task Force with aviation professionals from the Caribbean and international world. I am convinced that together and with the support of all islands and countries of the Dutch Kingdom we will improve the interisland connectivity in all aspects".

PAN BATI, SCABECHI, SEAFOOD SALAD, SULZ, SANGER YENA, CONCOMBER OF PAPAYA STOBA, SANCOCHO, AWA DI PLAYA, QUESILLO, PANBOYO, BOLO PRETO AND MUCH MORE!



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Consumer Price Index, base period June 2019 - December 2022

The Central Bureau of Statistics presents the most important findings for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of December 2022.

Consumer Price Index for the month of December 2022

The CPI for December 2022 is 106.37, a decrease of 0.1% compared to the index of November 2022 (106.49). The percentage change of the CPI over the last twelve (12) months (December 2021 to December 2022) is 5.7, an increase of 2.1 percentage points (ppts) compared to the percentage change for the same period of last year (3.6%).

The period average (last 24 months) percentage change of the CPI for the periods January 2021 to December 2021 and January 2022 to December 2022 is 5.5%, an increase of 4.8 ppts compared to the period average percentage change over the periods January 2020 to December 2020 and January 2021 to December 2021 (0.7%).

During this month, four (4) of the twelve (12) sectors registered decreases in prices. The decreases that had the greatest influence on the CPI were registered for the "Transport" (-2.2%) and "Household operation" (-3.2%) sectors, which contributed with an effect of -0.32 and -0.29 ppts, respectively. The decreases in the remaining sectors had an effect of -0.03 ppts on the CPI of December 2022.

Aforementioned decreases were partially offset mainly by increases in the indices for the "Recreation and culture" (2.2%) and "Restaurants and hotels" sectors, causing an effect of 0.21 and 0.13 ppts. The increases in the remaining sectors had an effect of 0.19 ppts on the CPI of December 2022. The decrease in the "Transport" sector was mainly due to a decrease in the category "Operation of personal transport equipment" (-3.8%), which contributed to an effect of -0.33 ppts. The decrease in the "Household operation" sector was mainly due to an increase in the category "Household appliances" (-9.0%), which contributed to an effect of -0.23 ppts. The increase in the "Recreation and culture" sector was mainly due to an increase in the category "Holidays" (5.9%), which contributed to an effect of 0.16 ppts. The increase in the "Restaurants and hotels" sector was mainly due to an increase of 1.9% in the category "Catering services", which contributed to an effect of 0.08 ppts.

Consumption basket

The consumption basket of the CPI consists of 408 goods and services. Compared to November 2022, 43.6% of these products had an increase in price, causing an effect of 0.93 ppts, while 39.5% showed a decrease, contributing to an effect of -1.04 ppts and the remaining 16.9% had no change in price. The prices of goods decreased by 0.8% and caused an influence of -0.50 ppts. The

prices of services showed an increase of 1.0% and had an influence of 0.39 ppts on the CPI of December 2022.

Core inflation

The CPIC (core inflation) - CPI excluding the effect of energy and food - was 3.0% in December 2022. The energy index - which consists of the products: electricity, water, gasoline and diesel - was 14.2%. The food index showed an increase of 10.5%.

Subsistence level

The subsistence level for a household consisting of two (2) adults and two (2) children (aged 0-15 years) in December 2022 is Afl. 5,376, an increase of Afl. 469 compared to December 2021 (Afl. 4,907). The subsistence level for a single adult household is Afl. 2,560, an increase of Afl. 23 compared to December 2021 (Afl. 2,337).

Consumer Price Index

Over the last 12 months, the CPI increased by 5.7%. Nine (9) of the twelve (12) sectors registered increases in prices. The increases that had the greatest influence on the CPI were registered for the "Housing" (12.1%), "Transport" (11.2%), "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" (13.3%) and "Restaurants and hotels" (8.7%) sectors, which contributed with an effect of 2.98, 1.48, 1.45 and 0.40 ppts, respectively. The increases in the remaining sectors had an effect of 0.42 ppts on the CPI of December 2021 - December 2022. Aforementioned increases were partially offset by decreases in the indices for the "Communications" (-8.1%) and "Household operation" (-3.4%) sectors, causing an effect of -0.68 and -0.32 ppts, respectively.

The increase in the "Housing" sector was mainly due to increases in the categories "Electricity, gas and other fuels" (23.0%) and "Water supply and miscellaneous services relating to the dwelling" (19.0%), which contributed to an

effect of respectively, 1.74 and 0.89 ppts. The increase in the "Transport" sector was mainly due to increases in the categories "Purchase of vehicles" (21.3%) and "Operation of personal transport equipment" (6.2%), which contributed to an effect of 0.93 and 0.52 ppts, respectively. The increase in the "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" sector was mainly due to an increase in the category "Food" (13.5%), which contributed to an effect of 1.31 ppts. The increase in the "Restaurants and hotels" sector was mainly due to an increase in the category "Food and beverage consumption outside the home" (8.0%), which contributed to an effect of 0.36 ppts.

The decrease in the "Communications" sector was mainly due to a decrease in the category "Telephone and telefax services" (-7.8%), which contributed to an effect of -0.63 ppts. The decrease in the "Household operation" sector was due to a decrease in the category "Household appliances" (-9.4%), which contributed to an effect of -0.25 ppts.

Consumption basket

Over the last year 64.0% of the products in the consumption basket had an increase in price, causing an effect of 7.81 ppts, while 24.8% showed a decrease, contributing to an effect of -2.08 ppts and the remaining 11.3% had no change in price. The prices of goods increased by 9.3% and caused an influence of 5.34 ppts. The prices of services showed an increase of 0.9% and had an influence of 0.39 ppts.

Subsistence level

Over the last 12 months, the subsistence level for a household consisting of two (2) adults and two (2) children (aged 0-15 years) registered an increase of Afl. 469. This increase was mainly due to increases in the "Food and non-alcoholic beverages" (Afl. 262) and "Housing" (Afl. 176)

sectors.

Change in prices of crude oil, utilities, gasoline and diesel

The average price per barrel of crude oil registered an increase of US\$ 5.39 (7.5%) from US\$ 71.41 in December 2021 to US\$ 76.80 in December 2022.


The average price per barrel of the WTI crude oil (US\$ 95.14) for the year 2022 shows an increase of US\$ 27.36 (40.4%) compared to the average price for the year 2021 (US\$ 67.78).

The energy index increased by 17.6% over the past 12 months. The indices of "Gasoline" and "Diesel" registered increases of respectively, 5.2% and 29.0% over the last year, contributing together with an effect of 0.35 ppts. The indices of "Electricity" and "water" registered increases of respectively, 22.7% and 23.1% over the last year, contributing together with an effect of 1.65 and 0.84 ppts, respectively. The remaining 404 goods and services, as a group, show an increase of 3.4% and had an effect of 2.89 ppts on the CPI.

Change in prices of Food & catering services

Over the last 12 months, the "Food & catering services" increased by 11.7%. The "Food at home" index showed an increase of 13.3%, where all of the "Food at home" food groups increased over the period. The "Milk, cheese and eggs" index increased by 17.3%, the largest increase among the "Food at home" food groups. Furthermore, other significant increases were posted in the indices for "Potatoes and other tubers" (15.6%), "Meat" (15.3%), "Bread and cereals" (14.9%), "Oils and fats" (14.3%), "Fish and other seafood" (13.6%), "Non-alcoholic beverages" (11.6%), "Sugar, jam, honey and other confectionery" (10.5%) and "Vegetables" (10.4%).

The index for "Food away from home" increased by 8.0% over the last 12 months. □

			
CPI (BASE JUN 2019 = 100)			
Index	↑	106.37	
Monthly	↓	-0.1	
Year-to-date	↑	5.7	
End of period	↑	5.7	
Period average	↑	5.5	
Goods	↓	-0.8	
Services	↑	1.0	
CPIC (based on period average inflation)			
CPIC	↑	3.0	
Energy	↑	14.2	
Food	↑	10.5	
SUBSISTENCE LEVEL in Afl.			
1 adult	↑	2,560	
2 adults + 2 children	↑	5,376	
CPIC: CPI excluding the effect of energy and food.			
Energy: Electricity, water, gasoline and diesel.			
SUBSISTENCE LEVEL: The minimum level of income which is perceived necessary to achieve an adequate standard of living.			

Richard Jacobs: from footballer to international cameraman to multimedia lecturer in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Richard E. Jacobs Jr. is currently a guest lecturer in multimedia at Ibero American High School. Jacobs has a long and successful trajectory in the world of television; but before entering television, his first love was soccer. In an interview with our reporter, Jacobs tells a bit about his career in soccer and multimedia.

From a young age, because his father played soccer, Jacobs followed in his father's footsteps and began playing soccer too. At a young age he moved to the Netherlands and from that moment continued developing in his sport. Half of his career was in the Netherlands where he played for big teams. Afterwards he came back to Aruba and played in various youth teams and represented Aruba in Santo Domingo, among others.

Jacobs says that during his soccer career he won different individual awards. Among others, he won goalgetter in a championship twice, and was MVP of a championship twice. He also won best striker.

During the 1990s, he was part of Aruba's national team, representing our island in elimination games for the World Cup in 1994, 1998 and 2002. He was also part of the Aruba team for the Caribbean Championship Shell Cup, and in the



year 2000 he was part of the Aruban team that beat the Puerto Rican team 4-2.

Jacobs studied in the electrical sector in Aruba and after finishing his studies in Aruba he moved to the Netherlands to continue studying electronica. During his studies in the Netherlands, Jacobs says, there was a department that would photograph and film here and there, but mostly photograph. He went to experience this, and loved it so much that he started participating. "I started going deeper into it. For filming, I began when I was 14, filming various activities around Aruba with a big camera. I always liked filming. That's how I started, and as I grew up I gained more experience."

Jacobs worked in TeleAruba, and after that he got the opportunity to work in ATV and at this time he gained a lot of experience in the world of television.

Internationally, he worked at different TV stations and programs. He says that he worked with CNN, Fox, NBC, as cameraman for the Larry King show, and he worked as cameraman also for Nancy Grace at that time.

The transition from television to school happened because his two daughters attended Ibero American High School, and during the years they were enrolled, they realized that he was doing multimedia work and the school approached him to start teaching in the MultiMedia department in order to introduce the subject to the students. "They found accreditation for this and after six years teaching, this is the only school that is currently giving complete multimedia lessons," Jacobs emphasized.

"You learn everything regarding filming, editing, and you learn to work with



Photoshop, restore images, make posters, you learn everything regarding social media. We also teach the technical aspect a bit of the work of IT", he added.

Finalizing, Jacobs says that what he likes the most about teaching at the school is inspiring the kids, who have an open window to the world of multimedia. "Maybe you are a

very creative person, you can do a lot with multimedia and what I like is that when I give an assignment, I want for them to do it the best that they can, better than me.

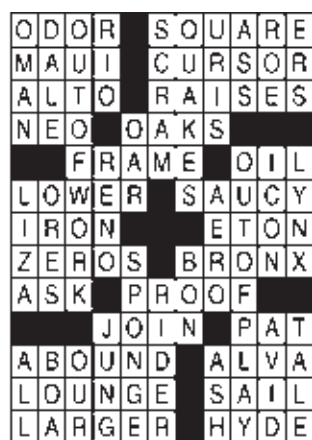
The goal is to push these children to use their creativity and experience the world of multimedia, through which they can express themselves in different ways." □



CROSSWORDBy **THOMAS JOSEPH**

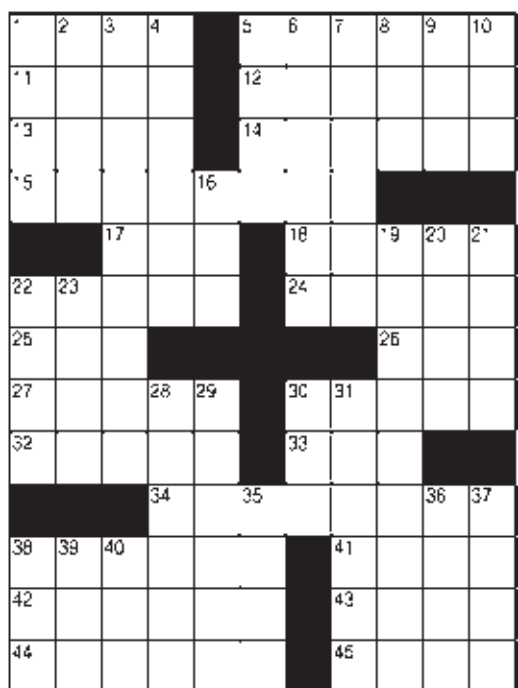
ACROSS 44 Correct
1 Gone under
5 Ax wielders

DOWN
11 Huron neighbor
12 Twist of fiction
13 Sneaker part
14 Central American nation
15 Waving in the breeze
17 Old roadster
18 Number unit
22 Tangle
24 Clue room
25 Summer mo.
26 Swiss peak
27 Turns about
30 San —, California
32 Shop tool
33 Day before
34 Gum flavor
38 Central American nation
41 Unexciting
42 Makes amends
43 Guinness of film



Yesterday's answer

10 Mrs., in Madrid
16 Campaign pro
19 Central American nation
20 Not busy
21 Keyboard goof
22 Shocked sound
23 Empty
28 Los Angeles suburb
29 Grabs
30 Gents
31 Film set on Pandora
35 Forest home
36 Sign
37 Bottle part
38 Butter unit
39 Summer, in Paris
40 Cut off



2-2

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

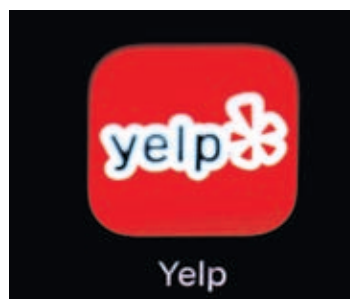
2-2 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

BZB JSQ OWOP BDTEO IZMV

MVO BOWZC ZT MVO KDCO

XSSTCZHM? — "FDMXDT"

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MY NAME IS INIGO MONTROYA. YOU KILLED MY FATHER. PREPARE TO DIE. "THE PRINCESS BRIDE"



The Yelp app is seen on an iPad in Baltimore on March 19, 2018.

Associated Press

Anti-Asian hate 'runs the gamut,' racist Yelp reviews show

By **DAVID KLEPPER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As if running a restaurant during a pandemic wasn't tough enough, Christopher Wong also had to contend with a racist troll.

"I will not have my dog eat in this place because they might cook him," read the Yelp review of Wong's eatery, the Curry Up Cafe in suburban Los Angeles. "The owner works for the Chinese government." Yelp removed the review after Wong and several regular customers complained, but not before it had already been seen by an unknown number of potential customers.

"If one person read that and decided not to come in, that's someone who could have been a satisfied customer for years," Wong told The Associated Press. Last year, Yelp, which is based in San Francisco, removed more than 2,000 racist business reviews before they went online a nearly 10-fold jump over the year before.

It's a sharp increase that reflects improved efforts by Yelp to combat racist content and shows how even a site known for reviews of restaurants and repair services can become ensnared in America's ongoing battle over online civility. □

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22 weeks remain Non mandatory
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www.halleytimetravelaruba.online

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Pamela Anderson captivately tells her own story

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

AP Film Writer

Pamela Anderson was always a bit of an open book in interviews. No one ever told her not to be, or that because she talked about some things that she didn't have to talk about everything. She didn't know that she could draw her own line in the sand if a question made her feel uncomfortable.

And so she answered all manner of questions about her breasts, her body, her image, her boyfriends partially because she was gracious and self-deprecating, partially because her body was, in some ways, her meal ticket and partially because the people asking these questions were more often than not respected journalists working for respected outlets.

From the moment that audience camera zoomed in on her in the Labatt T-shirt at a Canadian football game in 1989, the image of Pamela Anderson was, essentially, no longer her own. It belonged to everyone else.

By the time private home videos showing her and husband Tommy Lee having sex were stolen, reproduced and distributed for sale globally, no one



This image released by Netflix shows Pamela Anderson in a scene from the documentary "Pamela, A Love Story."

seemed all that horrified on her behalf. They couldn't even fake it when speaking to her.

She wasn't a person; She was just an object. And then, in some ways, it was done all over again many years later when the Hulu series "Pam & Tommy" was made without her involvement or consent.

"Pamela, a Love Story," a new documentary from filmmaker Ryan White, gives Anderson the chance to tell her story her own way, from her earliest days to her Playboy debut, her "Baywatch" fame, her many marriages and up through her recent run on Board-

way. She is still that open book, disarmingly funny and candid and uncynical, sitting there beautifully makeup free, letting the filmmakers and audience peer into her soul through many pages of journals going back to her childhood. It is a captivating watch, especially for those who never thought much about her at all.

Anderson's life was and is immensely complex. Her parents' relationship was volatile and sometimes violent. They lived on welfare for a time and she still remembers the taste of the powdered milk. She had a female babysitter who

molested her for years. At age 12 she was raped by a 25-year-old. She learned early to leave her body and make her own little world, she says, and she knew from a young age that she had to get off of that island.

Like many women before and after her, Anderson didn't feel beautiful growing up and after the sexual trauma, her body was a source of secret shame. Ironical that it was her body that would be her ticket out, ultimately. But modeling felt like playing a character, she said. Even when mostly nude, it didn't feel like herself. Sometimes it

was even fun.

There is a breeziness to Anderson, who, despite everything, does not think of herself as a victim. She doesn't regret marrying Tommy Lee after four days of knowing him — her account of the quick courtship is quite amusing. At a certain point, though sick of always having to talk about her breasts, she used her image for a cause she cared about: PETA. She even sat through a roast under the condition that a sizable donation be made to the organization. She is a hopeful romantic who is hard not to root for.

She has made peace with many, many things, some simply by refusing to dwell, but one thing that still stings is the tape such a clear violation of her privacy that you wonder what sort of culture and legal system would allow it to get as out of control as it did.

That a series would attempt to make entertainment out of it just reopened old wounds and traumas. Even if it was done out of some altruistic motive to reframe the recent past, for Anderson, it was another group of people making money off of, what her son calls, the worst thing that's ever happened to her. □

Associated Press



Robin McGraw, left, and Dr. Phil McGraw arrive at the 50th annual Academy of Country Music Awards at AT&T Stadium on Sunday, April 19, 2015, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

Dr. Phil' talk show to end daytime TV run after 21 years

'NEW YORK (AP) — Daytime television psychologist "Dr. Phil" McGraw says he plans to end his talk show after 21 years in the coming months, but viewers haven't seen the last of him.

"Dr. Phil" was the most prominent spinoff from Oprah Winfrey's show, which once dominated daytime TV. The Texan's program debuted in September 2002 after he'd been featured as a regular guest on Winfrey's.

"With this show, we have helped thousands of guest and millions of viewers through everything from

addiction and marriage to mental wellness and raising children," McGraw said in a statement.

"This has been an incredible chapter of my life and career, but while I'm moving on from daytime, there is so much more I wish to do."

The traditional broadcast TV season ends in spring; there was no date given for Phil's final show.

McGraw, 72, said he wants to focus on prime-time programming and is planning an unspecified project for early next year.

In the meantime, while new "Dr. Phil" episodes

won't be made, the show won't disappear from TV. CBS Media Ventures, which syndicates his program, said it will offer stations a package of reruns with occasional new wraparound content for future seasons. That's a cost-saving path blazed by "Judge Judy," which aired its last original show in June 2021 but continues to be popular in reruns.

"We plan to be in the 'Dr. Phil' business with the library for years to come and welcome opportunities to work together in the future," said Steve LoCascio, president of CBS Media Ventures. □

Tom Brady retires at 45, insisting this time it's 'for good'

By FRED GOODALL

AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — This time, Tom Brady says he's done for good.

The seven-time Super Bowl winner with New England and Tampa Bay announced his retirement from the NFL on Wednesday, exactly one year after first saying his playing days were over, by posting a brief video lasting just under one minute on social media.

Unlike last winter, though, the most successful quarterback in league history, as well as one of the greatest athletes in team sports, said his decision was final.

"Good morning guys. I'll get to the point right away," Brady says as the message begins. "I'm retiring. For good."

He briefly retired after the 2021 season but wound up coming back for one more year with the Buccaneers. He retires at age 45, the owner of virtually every meaningful NFL passing record in an unprecedented 23-year career.

A year ago when he retired, it was in the form of a long Instagram post. But about six weeks later, he decided to return for one more run, citing "unfinished business" after an early playoff exit. The Buccaneers with whom he won a Super Bowl two seasons ago made the playoffs again this season, losing in their playoff opener. And at the time, it begged the question about whether Brady would play again. Only a couple of weeks later, he has given the answer.

"I know the process was a pretty big deal last time, so when I woke up this morning, I figured I'd just press record and let you guys know first," Brady says in the video. "I won't be long-winded. You only get one super emotional retirement essay and I used mine up last year."

"I really thank you guys so much, to every single one of you for supporting me. My family, my friends, teammates, my competi-



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) smiles during warmups before an NFL football game, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

tors. I could go on forever. There's too many. Thank you guys for allowing me to live my absolute dream. I wouldn't change a thing. Love you all."

Brady is the NFL's career leader in yards passing (89,214) and touchdowns (649). He is the only player to win more than five Super Bowls and has been MVP of the game five times. He also holds marks for regular-season wins (251), Super Bowl appearances (10), playoff games and wins (48, 35), as well as playoff yards (13,400) and TDs (88).

"Tom's legacy is unmatched in the history of this game. All the Super Bowl titles and statistical records speak for themselves, but the impact he had on so many people through the years is what I appreciate the most," Buccaneers general manager Jason Licht said.

"His imprint on this organization helped take us to the mountaintop. We will certainly miss him as our quarterback, but I will also miss him as a leader and friend," Licht added. "Our entire organization is indebted to him for what he provided us over the past three years. We won't ever

forget the wins or the accolades, and his influence will be felt for years to come." Brady announced his retirement one day after attending the premiere of "80 for Brady" which comes out Friday in Los Angeles. The movie tells the story of four lifelong friends, played by Lily Tomlin, Jane Fonda, Rita Moreno and Sally Field, who went to a Super Bowl to see Brady play.

He was asked Tuesday night whether he felt a connection working with women the four stars range in age from 76 to 91 who don't want to retire.

"They're working hard and they love it. So good for them," Brady told The Associated Press. "You know, it's just that's what life is about. You got to, you know, wake up every day with a purpose. And when you find something you love to do, you know, it's hard to stop. You really enjoy it. And there's a lot of aspects that you do enjoy. So they still bring it at this age. It's really unbelievable to watch them on set and how much energy they have. And I certainly was inspired by them and learned a lot of lessons on this whole experience."

Famously underrated com-

ing into the NFL he was picked 199th in the 2000 draft by the Patriots, behind six other quarterbacks, three kickers and a punter Brady certainly wasn't expected to become synonymous with greatness. He played in one game as a rookie, completing one of three passes for six yards. The next year, it all changed.

Brady took over as the Patriots' starter, the team beat the St. Louis Rams in the Super Bowl that capped the 2001 season and he and New England coach Bill Belichick were well on their way to becoming the most successful coach-QB duo in football history.

More Super Bowl wins came after the 2003 and 2004 seasons. The Patriots returned to football's mountaintop for a fourth time in Brady's era a decade later to cap the 2014 season, the start of three more titles in a span of five years.

He signed with Tampa Bay in free agency in 2020 and added a seventh Super Bowl ring to his collection in his first season with his new team.

The Bucs and won 37 games (including postseason) with Brady at quarterback third most in the

league over the past three seasons behind Kansas City (46) and Buffalo (41).

"I think I've been on the record dozens of times saying there's no quarterback I'd rather have than Tom Brady, and I still feel that way," Belichick said in 2021 shortly before Tampa Bay, with Brady, came to New England and beat the Patriots in a game dubbed "The Return."

"I was very lucky to have Tom as the quarterback, to coach him, and he was as good as any coach could ever ask for."

Brady set league single-season records for completions (490) and pass attempts (733) while throwing for 4,643 yards, 25 touchdowns and nine interceptions in his final season. The Bucs, however ranked dead last in rushing offense and, forced to rely almost solely of Brady's arm, struggled to get the ball into the end zone.

After scoring 61 touchdowns in 2021, Tampa Bay slipped to 31 last season and averaged just 18.4 points per game down from over 30 in Brady's first two seasons with the Bucs. At 8-9, Brady's only losing season in over two decades as a NFL starter, the Bucs became just the fourth team in league history to earn a postseason berth with a losing mark in a non-strike year. The offensive struggles continued during a lopsided loss to Dallas in the NFC wild-card round.

Brady won three NFL MVP awards, was a first-team All-Pro three times and was selected to the Pro Bowl 15 times.

Brady and model Gisele Bündchen finalized their divorce this past fall, during the Bucs' season. It ended a 13-year marriage between two superstars who respectively reached the pinnacles of football and fashion.

It was announced last year that when Brady retires from playing, he would join Fox Sports as a television analyst in a 10-year, \$375 million deal. □

Stewart heads to New York on first day of WNBA free agency

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

Breanna Stewart couldn't turn down a chance to play in New York and potentially help the Liberty win their first WNBA championship.

The most coveted free agent this offseason, who won the WNBA MVP award in 2018, announced on social media that she was going to New York with a photo of her in a Liberty shirt on Wednesday. Stewart had spent her entire career in Seattle since the Storm drafted her No. 1 overall in 2016. She won two championships with the team in 2018 and 2020.

"I decided to go to New York as I wanted to continue to be great. And I wanted to go to the place



Seattle Storm forward Breanna Stewart brings the ball up against the Las Vegas Aces in Game 2 of a WNBA basketball playoff semifinal Aug. 31, 2022, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

where I think I can help this league become better, to raise the standard," Stewart

said in an interview on ESPN. "I feel like why not go to the biggest market in all

of sports. I'm excited to go after their first championship."

The 28-year-old wing has averaged 20.3 points and 8.6 rebounds in her WNBA career. She missed the 2019 season with an Achilles injury.

"New York is a basketball city and I can't wait to be a part of it," Stewart said.

By coming to New York it brings Stewart closer to home. She grew up in Syracuse which is an hour flight from New York.

It also is an easier flight to Spain to see her wife Marta's family.

New York representatives, including coach Sandy Brondello and co-owner Clara Wu Tsai met with Stewart in Turkey last week. Stewart had narrowed her choices down to Seattle and New York before choosing the Liberty.

The move turns the Liberty into an instant championship contender. New York is one of the WNBA's original franchises, but has never won a championship. The Liberty already added 2021 MVP Jonquel Jones and Kayla Thornton through a three-way deal to complement 2020 No. 1 draft pick Sabrina Ionescu. "I think this group has a ton of potential, a lot of amazing players," Stewart said. "The selflessness helps us set ourselves apart from everyone else."

The news was met with elation on social media by Jones, Ionescu and Nets star Kevin Durant, who said on a podcast that he had reached out to Stewart to get her to come to New York.

"As I've gone through free agency this time around, of course I'm thinking of where I can compete for my third championship, but the words home and family are what I kept coming back to," Parker said. "After evaluating the landscape together with my family, we've decided the Las Vegas Aces are the right organization for us at this point in our lives. To play for a championship close to home is the perfect situation for us. I'm looking forward to continuing the journey this summer in Las Vegas." □

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